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Dennis Miller

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Mar. 1, 2011 Volume 11 No. 3

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Windmills Proposed for Area

By Dahlia Grossman
Editor/publisher

Another renewable energy projects is being proposed for our area. In addition to DWP's proposed Barren Ridge project, which may very well go through Green Valley and Elizabeth Lake, and in addition to Edison's projects, which have already been forced on Leona Valley, a huge new project is being proposed for Fairmont, the area just north of Lake Hughes.

According to Bob Large, president of The Lakes Town Council, a company called Next Energy wants to erect 80 415-foot-tall wind turbine towers in the Fairmont area. "In order to put up these towers, they would need a 72-wheel vehicle," said Large at the February 5 meeting.

According to Large, the project would be located next to Healy Ranch, which is adjacent to the poppy fields.

Large told residents that the towers will be visible from Elizabeth Lake and will have lights on them. He said that we should take this project very seriously. "Do not discount this company. Their parent company is Next Era Energies, which reported a 2009 revenue of 15 billion and has 15,000 employees in the U.S. and Canada," said Large. "They are a major player in California and already have several plants operating in the state," he said.

Large said there is a desert renewable conservation plan that spells out the areas that are appropriate for renewable energy development. The Lakes ridgeline is one of those areas.

Residents of Fairmont recently formed a town council
See Windmills, page 2



Sheriff's Deputy Dennis Miller will be working with Resident Deputy Bob Schneider to patrol the Lakes and Valleys. Grossman photo.

Second Deputy Assigned

The Lakes and Valleys now have a second full-time deputy, Dennis Miller. Deputy Miller was introduced to the Lakes Communities by Resident Deputy Bob Schneider at the February 5 meeting of the town council. "I hand-picked him," said Deputy Schneider. "It's been a long time coming. I've been the only one up here for a long time," he said.

Deputy Miller grew up in the Lakes and is very familiar with the area, according to town council president Bob Large.

Lakes resident Gene Heintz, who was umpire for Deputy Miller's childhood baseball team, remarked: "I hope I never called you 'out!'"

Lakes Queens Pageant March 6

Sarah Fitzgerald, Miss Hughes Elizabeth Lakes, Ashley Rich, Jr. Miss Hughes Elizabeth Lakes, and Elyse Carroll, Little Miss Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes invite residents to attend this year's pageant scheduled for Sunday, March 6 at the Oaks Camp and Conference Center, 18651 Pine Canyon Road, Lake Hughes. The pageant begins at 5:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "Tribute to the Troops" and the girls would love you to march on by and join them in honoring our troops. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under, and will be available at the door.

See Queens, page 2

THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

Deadline for ads, payments and articles for the Mar. 1 issue is Jan. 12. Payments: Mountain Yodeler, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

For more information, call 965-2201 or 724-1293.
dahlia.grossman@verizon.net

Leona Valley Says "No!" to Development

By Dahlia Grossman
Editor/publisher

The vote is in on the proposed Valley Vineyards gated community in Leona Valley. After two and a half hours of discussion, every one of the more than 150 residents attending the February 12 meeting of the Leona Valley Town Council said the Valley Vineyards project is unacceptable to them in its present form.

What were the issues? Residents said the project will have too many houses, the houses will be too close together, there is not enough water, traffic will increase tremendously, the school will be overcrowded and a gated community does not belong in an open, rural community like Leona Valley.

As it now stands, plans are to put in 117 custom homes on parcels which have a minimum of 1.5 acres. This lot size is the minimum allowed by Leona Valley's CSDs, although the town council has been working diligently to revise the CSDs and increase the minimum to 2.5 acres for more than two years.

Bill Ford, president of Lauren Development, owner of the land, said he plans to make the development "incredibly green," with rainwater and recycled water from the homes being used to irrigate the land.

The project would have no sewers and no septic system. Each home would have its own mini sewage-treatment plant, although one Leona Valley resident said that such a plan makes the homes far too expensive for the average homebuyer.

Aaron Green, director of political and community relations for Afriat Consulting

Group, said the development will benefit the community in many ways. "It will generate \$1.4 million for the school districts, \$400,00 for L.A. County Fire Dept., and money for libraries and parks. Residents attending the meeting scoffed at the idea that any of that money would reach Leona Valley.

One of Leona Valley's main concerns was eloquently expressed by a teenage boy in the audience. "Houses go on land that's been open to coyotes and deer for centuries. We don't want more people here," said the teen. "We want it left the way God made it. We don't want it to change any more than it already has," he said. He then quoted John Muir as saying: "Beautiful places are so great. But they are also so fragile."

Another serious concern raised by a resident was the possible contamination of the groundwater through the maintenance of the vineyards that are to be planted in the project. "I am concerned with the fertilizers, pesticides and nitrates that may be used for the vineyards," said the resident. "We already have a problem with groundwater contamination. Whatever you're doing over there is going to have an impact," he said.

As always, the problem of increased traffic from 117 new homes was discussed. Ford said it is anticipated that 87th Street would have an additional 100 cars per day and Bouquet an additional 1,000. Residents replied that they would no longer be able to walk or ride their horses on 87th Street with all that traffic and that the already long and tedious commute up Bouquet

See Valley Vineyards, page

Windmills, from pg. 1

and are joining together with people from Antelope Acres to oppose the construction. In addition, at least two environmental groups are opposed to the project.

Lakes resident Teri Gordon voiced her opinion about the projects: "Because they have so much money, they just squash us," said Gordon. "They are being subsidized by the government," she said.

Norm Hickling verified that these companies are receiving government subsidies and that Gordon's opinion is prevalent in the area. "The communities all feel they are under attack environmentally," he said.

Resident Rob Kennard also gave his input. "At the Fairmont Town Council meeting, the directors brought up four options (for the project)," said Kennard. "What about the fifth option: We don't want the bloody things!" he said.

Large said he will invite the project managers to attend our next town council meeting on Saturday, March 5, at 8:30 a.m.



Jeanette Lundberg, president of Lakes Woman's Club (left) and Doris Karabinus attended the club's recent district luncheon.

Queens, from page 1

Competing for this year's titles are: Little Miss Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Sierra Crews and Payton Saucier; JM Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Hannah Burke; and Miss Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Nichola Hamilton and Kimberlee Benz.

"Please bring a donation for our troops to the pageant. See a list of suggested care package items at www.bluestarmothers.com"

Leona Valley to Choose Queens

Leona Valley Queens Pageant is scheduled for March 26 at Leona Valley Community Building.

Valley Vineyards, from page 1

would be truly unbearable. Ford did say that, as of now, the county is not requiring a street light at the Bouquet entrance to the project. It was also noted by a resident that the traffic study was done during the week of the AV Fair time, when few people were around.

With an abandoned Ritter Ranch project and a three-year struggle to get SunCal to finish the road "improvements" on Elizabeth Lake Road fresh in residents' minds, Juanita Kirkpatrick asked: "What guarantee do we have that you won't start the project and then abandon it?" Ford replied that he cannot predict the future or "speak to the economy."

Former town council president Rich Thomas reminded residents that Lauren Development also owns another large parcel on Godde Hill Road. Ford said there are no immediate plans to develop it.

And finally, one frustrated resident asked "How crucial is our approval of this plan to you? Are we just wasting our time? Aaron Green replied: "For two years Lauren Development made monthly presentations because they care about the input of this community."

Call to Action

At the meeting's conclusion, Leona Valley Town Council President Bill Elliott made an impassioned plea for Leona Valley to rise up and fight. "Seventy percent of this package says 'No. We don't

want it," said Elliott, holding up the reports from the county's departments of Public Health, Fire, Parks, Public Works and Regional Planning. "We need your help. I'm telling you that we (the town council) can not stop this alone!"

Elliott implored residents to reserve a seat on a bus that would be chartered to bring people to the meeting before the Board of Supervisors, which has been continued from March 2 to April 20.

"This whole community was built by people who built their own houses," said Elliott. "We don't need a big developer. It's setting a precedent for the Lakes and Valleys. After this, there is Leona Valley Downs, with 400 acres, Peterson's Ranch, with 5,000 acres, and others. We're in a race to get our CSDs or Town and County in place before this development is approved," he said.

If the revised CSDs are approved, they would limit building to one house per 2.5 acres. Town and County, the county's area-wide plan, would limit it even more. Both are moving too slowly towards completion, according to Elliott.

For more information, go to LeonaValleyTownCouncil.org

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Swan Lake

By Allaire Koslo, Honorary Mayor, Lakes Community

We are blessed with a very beautiful and graceful visitor to our Lakes community: a snowy white Tundra Swan (Cygnus columbianus) from the Holarctic ecozone.

Tundra swans (formerly known as Whistling Swans) usually migrate in large flocks, so I do not know why this one is alone, however our wintering Bald Eagle is solo too. Perhaps she is the Swan Princess from the legend.

This swan feeds on aquatic plants found in the lake water by dipping her head and neck in order to pluck the plants, roots and tubers. If she finds a mate (and it is believed that they often mate for life), then she breeds in the Arctic and migrates here, flying over 3,000 miles or more round trip.

Supposedly, "divorce" can occur, if there is nesting failure. If successful, there can be three to eight eggs in a clutch.

The Tundra Swan sleeps afloat and is a strong and fast swimmer. A Tundra Swan in the wild may live for about ten years and the oldest record is of a 24-year-old swan.

So we have our very own Swan Lake here, as in Tchaikovsky's ballet. The ancient German and Russian folk tale is the story of a Princess named Odette who is turned into a swan living in a lake by an evil sorcerer. A hero falls in love with her.

See Swan Lake, page 4



CHP Listen to Green Valley's Complaints About Speeders

By Lu Bole
Senior staff writer

Three California Highway Patrol officers attended the February meeting of Green Valley Town Council and responded to several recent complaints concerning the too frequent scofflaws who disregard our 35 MPH speed zone along San Francisquito Cyn. Rd., and the impatient commuters who ignore the stop sign at Spunky and San Fran.

Many folks have observed the numerous cars zooming down San Fran. during the early morning commute, and then those same drivers zooming back up the canyon again in the evening.

It was reported to the three officers (two from the Newhall station and one from Lancaster) that some really impatient commuters have been seen driving on the wrong side of the road, passing as many as a dozen cars who are honoring the stop sign across from Heart 'N Soul. The officers agreed that this is an extremely dangerous situation, and promised to increase patrols up here.

Part of the problem, however, is that there are other areas under their authority which have more traffic or accidents; and the lack of dependable radio communication produces still other difficulties.



A CHP officer addresses Green Valley Town Council

culties. It was suggested that the stop sign be made more visible, with either increased road-painting and/or a flashing light.

One of the officers stated that they are well aware that San Francisquito Cyn. Rd. was not designed to be a commuter road in the first place, and that when a rural highway becomes a commuter road, many problems, like those described above, do result. He reported that the main ways of preventing future accidents are education, engineering and enforcement.

Photo: Lu Bole

Young Partiers Trash Community Center

By Karan Hall

On Friday, January 28, there was an incident at the Lakes Community Center when a birthday party for one of our local young ladies got out of hand when some of the local boys decided to come to the party and stay.

As the party entered the wee hours of the morning, apparently a fight broke out and the party started quickly going downhill. At some time during the next few hours a couple of windows got broken, the toilets and sinks were filled with paper towels and junk, etc. Basically, the place was trashed. Thankfully, nothing major was damaged.

This mess was discovered at about 10 am. Saturday when the young ladies returned to clean up,

as they had said they would do.

As usual, the Lakes Community Center's active members came together to help get our beautifully remodeled center back to normal. (Mostly thanks to Sharon Lehner and Peggy Moore.)

I'm fairly new to the area but saw early on how determined this group was to help our community, and it still is.

The Lakes Community Center is just entering our fun season, culminating with our fabulous, annual 49ers Day Celebration in July.

Lakes Community Center has a large present and past membership. I would like to personally invite those of you who wish to help make our area a better place to live to

come back, or to come to a meeting for the first time.

Our regular monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of the month here at the center. We start at 7 pm and we do our best to be done by 8 pm. We even have a website: www.the-lakescommunitycenter.com

Hope to see you there.

School Seeks Emergency Parking Area

By Dahlia Grossman
Editor/publisher

Diane Parkins, principal/superintendent of HELUS, advised The Lakes Town Council at its February 5 meeting that the school needs a place to bring children in case school is dismissed early because of inclement weather or other emergency.

"We had to dismiss school early three times last winter because of snow," said Parkins. "We used to use the parking lot at Greenside but because of insurance regulations we can no longer do that," she said.

Parkins said the school needs a large, flat, safe area where children can be bussed and can wait for parents to pick them up. Her idea was to use the area near the marquee in front of the Community Center.

The town council advised her to contact The Painted Turtle, which owns the land surrounding the marquee.

LAKES WOMANS CLUB

NEXT MEETING

Wed., March 9 at 7 pm
at Lakes Community Center

Ladies, join us for a fun time, as we raise money for local charities and attend social events. All women living in the Lakes and Valleys Communities are welcome to join us. Come to our next meeting and meet our members. Just stop by. We'd love to have you join us.

For more information about the Lakes Woman's Club, call Jeanette at 724-0863.

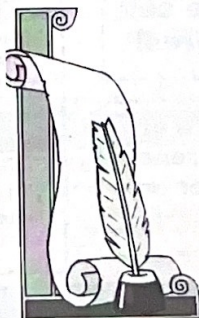
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NOTICES

Hoedown in Leona Valley

The Antelope Valley Bookmobile celebrates Read Across America with The Gypsy Folk Ensemble presenting American Hoedown on Friday, March 4, 2011 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Leona Valley Community Building, 8367 Lake Elizabeth Rd., Leona Valley.

The Bookmobile is your "one stop" for books, music, and videos!

For more information call: (661) 948-8270

For ADA accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, materials in alternate formats or access to the facility, call (661) 259-8946 or (661)945-2503 (TTY) M-F, 8-5, at least six days prior to event.

Cancer Support Group to Meet

American Cancer Society's Prostate Cancer Support Group meets from 12:30 to 2:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 725 East Avenue J, Lancaster.

Need someone to talk to before or after a treatment? For details, call Susan Baker, facilitator/coordinator at 718-1906.

Toastmasters Group Forming at YMCA

Improve your speaking and communication skills in a safe and supportive environment.

The Y Toastmasters meets Friday evenings at 6:45 at the Antelope Valley YMCA, 43001 10th Street West, Lancaster. Phone: 661-349-0851. (The YMCA is located just south of the park and ride lot, between avenues "K" and "L.")

Call Firefighters needed for Green Valley and Leona Valley. Call John Grimm at 270-1628.

Ham Operators Needed In all communities, especially Green Valley. Please call Doris 609-3888 or the Fire Safe Council at 270-9911.



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Swan Lake

from page 2

In Hindu culture there is a Sanskrit term:

Paramahansa or Great Swan, meaning a being with spiritual grace, able to be in the world without attachment, just like a swan whose feathers do not get wet even though she is in the water.

Dr. Callyn Yorke has graciously and generously allowed me to share with you his amazing photos he took on January 26 and February 9, 2011.

I encourage bird lovers to come to the quarterly general meeting of the Antelope Valley Audubon Society Tuesday March 1 at 6:30 pm at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve, 43201 35th Street West in Lancaster.

Relay for Life

Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10 is The American Cancer Society Relay for Life at Quartz Hill High School and I shall be performing with The Nuns for Fun on Saturday and leading Sunrise Yoga Sunday. Both events shall be on the Main Stage!

Leona Divide Marathon

Also, there is a practice run on Sunday, March 13 at 7 am to get ready for our famous 50 Mile Leona Divide Marathon April 30, 2011! Your Honorary Mayor shall be doing her best to be like a light and lovely swan running and flying over the hills and mountains! Come join me, "Where Nature is your Neighbor."

If you have any questions about these events please contact me: allaire@igc.org or 661.609.1481.

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all..." Emily Dickinson



"Our" eagle has been spotted again.
Photo: Dr. Callyn Yorke.

Preserving Leona Valley

Leona Valley Town Council's Preservation Committee is working to locate historical records. Committee Chairperson Peggy Fuller asks residents to call her at 270-0771 if they have any old articles or artifacts that could be used by the committee.

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In Loving Memory Lana Joy Seymour

Jan. 31, 1947 - Jan. 29,



Beloved Leona Valley activist Lana Seymour passed away on January 29, 2011 at her home. "This lady loved many people and was loved by many people," said Pastor Steve Bright at Lana's memorial service at Leona Valley Community Church on February 4.

Lana was well known for her participation in many community

organizations, including Sertoma, LVIA, 4-H, Fire Safe Council, West Antelope Valley Historical Society, the fight against transmission lines, Leona Valley Town Council - of which she was a founding member - and, most recently, the town council's Water Rate Committee.

In past years she was also active in the fight against the Ritter Ranch development, and a proposed prison. Lana wanted to keep Leona Valley rural and beautiful and she did everything in her power to protect her community. "She loved to fight because she loved people," said Flo Bistline, who called her "Aunt Lana."

"Anybody who ever met her was blessed," said Flo at the memorial service.

In addition to being a fighter, Lana was also well known for her great organizing skills and loved helping put together local events.

But most of all, Lana will be remembered for the way

she always went out of her way to help people and make them feel comfortable. She always had a meal ready, welcomed people with a smile and gave unselfishly to others.

Leona Valley held a moment of silence for Lana at its Water Committee appreciation dinner, which took place on the day that she passed away, and also at the February town council meeting.

Lana is survived by her husband John, son Patrick O'Brien and wife Erica, her father John L. Doran, sister Pamela Hayes and husband Ulys, grandson Vance O'Brien, nephew Randy Hayes and wife Sharon, niece Tamie Pierro, great nephew Jeremy Pierro, and numerous other nephews, nieces and friends.

Lana, you will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved you.

Instead of flowers, the family asks that a donation be made to the West Antelope Valley Historical Society, Leona Valley One-Room Schoolhouse, P.O. Box 1972, Lancaster, CA 93539. Please make checks payable to WAVHS.

Country Courtesy

Reprinted from the Welcome Book by SerToMa.

- 1) WAVE. When we drive around, we generally wave at each other. Kinda friendly.
- 2) Drive slow. Try to savor the moment. This is especially important if you see someone riding or walking a horse, goat etc. No hurrying around here anyhow.
- 3) Rural post boxes may appear open to the public for kids. Caution them: "It's big NO NO messing with the P.O."
- 4) If your neighbors are all parking the cars at the street on a cold night, they're probably expecting snow.
- 5) As most of the summer is hot, we're always cautious, and on the lookout for a brush fire. Claims a few homes every few years unfortunately. So stay alert, and NO FIREWORKS!
- 6) Any car or truck with a funny red light on top may be your volunteer Fireman on an emergency run. Please treat him/her as a Big Red.
- 7) Unlike the city folk, we like the dark sky at night. Big old lights that shine in neighbors' eyes are not appreciated. Review the C.S.D. (C.4. on Page 5-3)
- 8) If you're new here and your lot has some steep slopes, think twice before you move the earth around. Chances are you'll find after a big rain how carefully placed a slope, berm, culvert or ditch can be.
- 9) So. Calif. Edison considers this a forestry area. That means when there's a power outage, they must inspect the whole town before the power is turned back on. This usually means an outage will last 4 hours.
- 10) Shop local. That way you get to see your neighbors from across the street.
- 11) Even though the official Leona Valley wind gauge is a railroad tie hanging from a tree branch, we have no wind. It's a breeze.
- 12) Weeds can be trashed, shredded, mowed over or ignored. Burning is only allowed for tumbleweeds. Pick up a burn permit at Station 84 in Quartz Hill. 943-3211 (just west of the post office).
- 13) June is cherry picking time and the local orchards are open to the public. Please be patient with the out-of-towners. They'll be gone soon.
- 14) This may appear to be the wide open spaces, but it's not. You are in a town, and probably have neighbors. Therefore the following problems may find you:
 - a) Motorcycling on your property is your business, but dust and noise may involve your neighbors. If your activity is deemed a nuisance, it will be restricted
 - b) This is still L.A. County and the pound will snatch loose dogs. Please remember, even though your dog is a friend and family member, that same dog, in your neighbors' eyes, is just a dog.
 - c) Sound, like light (item #7), goes a long way out here. The coyotes can be heard across town, and a sneeze can be heard down the street.. Please be mindful with those sound systems.
 - d) Open space is encouraged, as block walls and "tract" type fencing is discouraged. Review the C.S.D. (C.3. on page 5-2) before building walls.
- 15) Elizabeth Lake Road is not part of the A.V. Freeway. We suffer the loss of a neighbor or two every year as those curves claim their victims. Please take in the scenery, don't let it take you.
- 16) Don't forget to wave.



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Scholarships Available: We want to serve those who serve others.

By Linda Lorenz, chairperson
Leona Valley Sertoma Scholarship Committee

The Leona Valley Sertoma Club wants to reward young people who are from Lake Hughes, Green Valley, Lake Elizabeth and Leona Valley who make community service and their education a priority. There are two different kinds of scholarships: one for graduating high school seniors with future education plans, and the other for community college students advancing to a four-year college.

Applications will be available by March 2 in Lake Hughes at The Lakes Community Center, Mountain Top Salon, P.J. deHaas Realty, Papa's County Store and The Rock Inn.

In Green Valley, the applications will be at Pony Express and Heart n Soul.

In Leona Valley, they will be found on the north side of the bulleting board outside of Rancher Market.

Applications will also be available at high school guidance offices in the Antelope Valley and at AV college.

If that does not work for you, you can get applications online at 22.leonavalleysertoma.org. The due date is April 2, 2011.

The thousands of dollars raised by Sertoma for scholarships came in part from the sale of the 2010 annual football books. For a \$25 donation, you had a chance to win \$50 for every Monday night football game played during the season. Thank you to all who bought football books.

Other donations were from Crazy Otto's, who donated all the money they made on their gumball machine; Leona Valley Salon; and the LL garage sale. Thank you to everyone who made the scholarships possible. This year's books will go on sale in June. Don't miss out on the fun and a chance to help our young people. Buy your books early and often!

For more information contact Linda Lorenz at 661-270-0163.



Rodney Brott and Pat Koster take part in the February 12 CERT exercise at Three Points.

CERT Volunteers Practice Rescue Skills in Three Points

By Robin Kennard, contributing writer

The Lakes & Valleys CERT group held their quarterly exercise in Three Points on Saturday, February 12. We all brushed up on our radio skills as there is no cell service in Three Points.

Rescues from private homes where people were trapped and injured were conducted. Because of the unusual terrain in the area the CERT 4x4 team assisted in the rescues and were instrumental in rescuing a "victim" from an isolated area near

Burnt Peak who had fallen down an embankment.

CERT volunteers searched the local area and managed a triage center at the Command Center. The Three Points team used their newly completed emergency trailer for medical supplies, search and rescue equipment and as an information center.

CERT guru Capt Scott Polgar and local fire station 78 were also on hand to observe and lend their expertise.

The event was attended by approximately 50 CERT volunteers and was both a learning opportunity and a huge success.

Many thanks to all of you for caring enough to be a part of this. A huge thank you to the Three Points team for all their efforts.

We are looking forward to the next exercise in Leona Valley on Saturday, May 14. All CERT personnel are welcome. If you would like to become a member of CERT, visit the website at antelopevalleycert.com for information on the next CERT class.

Brush Clearance Notices Cause Confusion

By Laura "cha" Vernetti

In February, many homeowners received an "Annual Brush Clearance Notice 2011" for the first time. Vacant land owners are used to receiving these notices each year, but it is upsetting to residents who have not received one before. The notices state that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) voted a "new inspection fee." Some people feel this is a new tax and new revenue.

Regardless, the notice warns property owner's it is their responsibility to clear brush around their homes or they could be inspected and possible fined.

In speaking with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, both confirmed this is nothing new. The language regarding the fee has always been on the notice. It is a legal requirement for the Board of Supervisors to vote on this annually. You can confirm this by calling the number on the notice.

There seems to be some confusion as to whether or

not the "inspection fee" will be charged to everyone regardless if the property is inspected. In speaking with a few residents, most people stated they had never received the notice before. In the case of vacant land property owners some had been charged the inspection fee even when they did their own weed abatement. Some people had never been charged. We hope this will be clarified soon.

As upsetting as the notice is, it can also be viewed as a comfort. Residents are being asked to make sure their properties are fire safe. This can alleviate concerns about residents that don't clear their brush, making not only their home at risk, but their neighbors as well. Although the inspections could begin as soon as April, the notice also states that you are required to maintain your brush clearance all year.

The good news is that the Fire Safe Council is here to help. Our brush clearance crew is beginning our "regular" busy season, providing a variety of "fuel reduction"

services. In addition to weed wacking, we can chip brush and split-wood.

Been doing your own weed abatement but have nowhere to put the brush? Dumping brush on vacant land is illegal dumping. We can chip it for you. Spreading the chippings as ground cover can actually prevent fires.

We urge you to please schedule your job as soon as possible, even for a future date. Customers who make appointments first, will be given priority. In most cases we are able to inform the county which properties we have scheduled. Why pay huge amounts on your property tax bill for the county weed abatement? The Fire Safe Council can do your brush clearance for a fraction of what the county charges. It keeps the money right here in our communities and it helps keep us fire safe. Please call Betty for more details 270-9911.

The next couple of meetings are March 2 in Leona Valley and April 6 in Lake Hughes. For more information please call 270-9911.

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Big Kids' Book Corner:

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Reviewed By Dawn Baertlein

Here's a supernatural adventure for you. It starts out a bit gruesome, with a family being killed while snug asleep in their beds. But it quickly becomes oddly amusing.

The youngest of the family, a mere toddler, escapes the blood-hound-like murderer called the man Jack. The little tike is more oblivious than fearful as he climbs out of his crib for a midnight stroll out the front door and up the hill.

He arrives at a graveyard with the man Jack hot on his trail. The ghostly inhabitants have to make a quick decision. Do they mind their own business, or do they rescue the little live one and care for him until he's big enough to care for himself?

It's a big commitment, but the inhabitants of the graveyard vote to take it on. Mistress and Mister Owens become the boy's guardians and name him Nobody Owens. Bod for short.

Silas, a man neither dead nor alive, ventures into the human world from time to time, procuring

food, clothes, books, and all the things a living child requires.

Meanwhile, the entire spectral village, with death dates ranging all the way back to ancient Roman times, educate the boy in the ways of the dead and, as best they can, the living. As long as Bod stays within the cemetery he is protected, but the world outside is full of dangers.

Bod loves his family, and the wide variety of characters, from a young witch to an old poet, make for a wonderful upbringing. Still, as Bod gets older he wants to walk among the living once in a while. Unfortunately, the man Jack and others like him are still looking for Bod, and for some reason want to kill him.

Author Neil Gaiman has a knack for supernatural spine tingers with a sprinkling of dry humor, and his *Graveyard Book* is the 2009 Newbery Medal winner.

The Graveyard Book is suggested for ages 10 and up.
Happy Reading!



Above: Miriam Ledoux received 1st place in visual arts in the Reflections contest. Below: Marnie Whitemyer won 1st place in literature and honorable mention in photography. Anja Whitemyer photos.



Lakes Town Council Forming Committees

The Lakes Town Council voted unanimously at the February 5 meeting to reactivate the Community Standards and Land Use Committee.

The subject was broached after the council received an impassioned plea from Lakes resident Louisa Stephen about the need for this committee to help protect our community.

The focus of the committee will be to keep an eye on development, especially renewable energy projects.

Cassidy Skelton volunteered to head the committee and several people in attendance at the meeting volunteered to be part of the group.

The committee plans to work with other like minded groups in the area.

The Lakes Town Council seeks new members for its election committee. If you are interested in helping with this important task, come to the next meeting, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 5 at the Lakes Community Center.

Budget Cuts May be Felt Here

State budget cuts could have a major impact on our area, according to Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich.

Budget cuts could affect new parks, new deputies, plowing of streets after storms, etc., Hickling said at the February 5 meeting of The Lakes Town Council.

LANCASTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Family Treasures

Mammoth Follies

Sunday, March 27 @ 3 PM

The Spencers: Theatre of Illusion

Friday, April 22 @ 8 PM

Broadway

The Music Man

Sunday, March 13 @ 7 PM

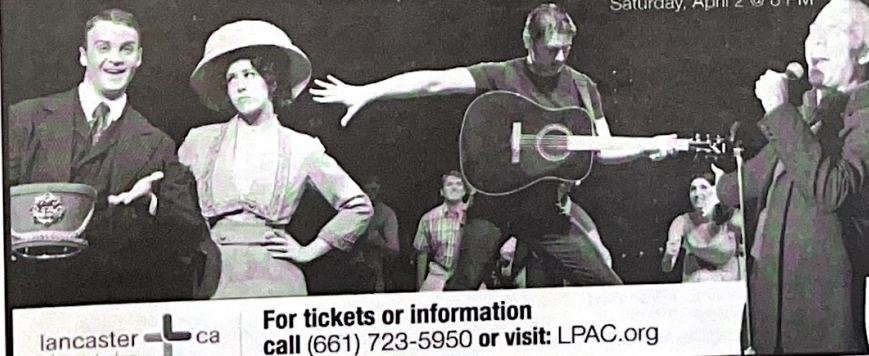
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Saturday, April 2 @ 8 PM



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Salt harms the heart, says Dr. Fuhrman

By Joel Fuhrman, M.D.

Sodium is an important mineral that is essential to the body's proper function - but adding salt (sodium chloride) to food provides us with dangerously high amounts of sodium.

- The human diet, for millions of years, did not contain any added salt - only the sodium present in natural foods. This equates to less than 1000 mg of sodium per day.

- Today, according to the CDC, Americans typically consume 3500 mg of sodium per day.

- 77% of sodium in the American diet comes from processed and restaurant foods.

Americans have a 90% lifetime probability of having high blood pressure, and high blood pressure is an important risk factor for future cardiovascular events.

Hypertension is responsible for two-thirds of all strokes.

When salt intake is high, excess fluid accumulates in the circulatory system, exerting pressure on the walls of blood vessels, consequently raising blood pressure and overworking the heart. Pumping against

this high pressure constantly for many years can cause the heart muscle to enlarge, which can eventually lead to heart failure. Elevated blood pressure is also the most common cause of hemorrhagic stroke.

A reduction in sodium intake by 50%, according to a recent meta-analysis, is estimated to reduce the rate of stroke by 23% and cardiovascular disease by 17%.

Tips for reducing the sodium in your diet:

- Since most salt comes from processed and restaurant foods, eating unprocessed, natural foods is an easy and effective way to avoid excess sodium.

- Resist adding salt to foods and purchase salt-free canned goods and soups.

- If you must salt your food, do so only after it is on the table and you are ready to eat it - it will taste saltier if the salt is right on the surface.

- Avoid condiments such as ketchup, mustard, soy sauce, teriyaki sauce, and relish, which are usually high in sodium.

- Aim for no more than 300 mg of

added sodium per day. Choose foods that have less sodium (in mg) than the number of calories per serving.

- Use garlic, onion, fresh or dried herbs, spices, lemon or lime juice, or vinegar to flavor food.

- Experiment to find salt-free seasonings that you enjoy.

Remember, salt deadens the tastebuds, and by avoiding processed and highly salted foods, you will regain your ability to detect and enjoy the subtle flavors in natural foods and actually experience heightened pleasure from unsalted foods.

Added salt, regardless of whether it is table salt or fancy sea salt, adds excess sodium to the body, and it is dangerous. Reducing your salt consumption is one of the most important things you can do to prevent cardiovascular disease.

*For references, please go to website.
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Dr. Joel Fuhrman.com
4 Walter E. Foran Blvd
Suite 408
Flemington, NJ 08822
DrFuhrman.com | 1-800-474-WELL(9355)

Thank You, Subscribers

Thank you to the following people, who subscribed to the Yodeler during February:

Barbara Graham, LH
Thomas Seifert, Pasadena
Diane Castellini, Marina del Rey
C.J. and K.P. Bresee, LV
Ed and Lori Farris, LV
Jeff Olesh, LH
Janet Maruhashi, LA
A special thanks to my anonymous subscriber.

For those who have never subscribed to your local paper by sending a donation of any amount, I hope you will consider it some time this year. Your subscriptions are needed to keep the paper going. Each issue costs \$800 to print and \$500 to mail to you. The only way I can think of to save money is to go online instead of mailing the papers to your homes. I know there are some people who don't have computers and I don't want to leave them out by doing it that way.

Please send your check to Mountain Yodeler, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

Dave Says

Dating on a dime

Dear Dave,

I'm a recent college graduate, and I'm determined to follow your plan and get out of debt. My biggest problem is when it comes to dating. Things aren't cheap today, so aside from not dating, how do you handle this area of your life when you're trying to get your finances in order?

Roland

Dear Roland,

First of all, you definitely need to date people. I couldn't have gone without dating, especially at your age. So, I'm not going to tell you to do something I couldn't do.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with dating inexpensively if you're thoughtful. Just don't be so cheap that you're freakish about things. There are plenty of nice, stylish places that don't cost an arm and a leg. A picnic and a Frisbee will go a long way on a pretty day! Your efforts to be a gentleman and make things happen in creative ways will be a lot more charming to any lady worth dating than throwing down an extra \$100 at a snooty restaurant you can't afford.

The other thing is to make dating part of your monthly budget. In your situation, it's a legitimate expense, and you need to make it part of your financial game plan. Then, if you're seeing someone on a regular basis, and the money in the "dat-

ing" envelope is getting low, you can explain to her that you're working hard to manage your money properly so you'll be wealthy one day.

This will make you even more attractive to the right kind of person, because it shows that you're mature enough and responsible enough to be thinking toward and planning for the future!

—Dave

Nix the lawn service?

Dear Dave,

We currently pay to have our lawn mowed each week. This expense is figured into our monthly budget, but we're not quite out of debt yet. My wife says this is a luxury at this point, and I should cut the grass myself until we're out of debt. What do you think?

Ty

Dear Ty,

I think it depends a lot on your income. If you're a surgeon making \$350,000 a year, then making lawn care part of your monthly budget is probably pretty reasonable. Now, if you're only making \$26,000 a year, you probably need to get behind the mower and start pushing it yourself!

Is this a snobbish attitude? I don't think so. It's a simple matter of mathematics. What is your personal time worth in the marketplace, and should you be plying your trade out in the world rather than mowing the lawn?

Let's say you're an attorney who charges \$400 an hour. In that case, you're probably going to be better off out there lawyering—especially if you're trying to get out of debt—than you would be pushing a mower. But if you make \$12 an hour, it's a good idea for you to be cutting your own grass, isn't it?

Whether or not something is a "luxury" depends on your own personal income and financial situation. That's how I look at it.

—Dave

Girlfriend's money problems?

Dear Dave,

I'm fairly responsible with finances, but my girlfriend is in a terrible financial situation, with a lot of credit card debt, an expensive car payment, and a big, fancy apartment. Plus, she just quit her job because she didn't like it any more. Now, she's thinking about filing bankruptcy and thinks our moving in together will

help solve her problems. If she can't handle her finances on her own, what's going to happen if we get together? Can you help?

Dino

Dear Dino,

This is someone to keep dating, not marry right now or move in with, and see if she changes her spending habits. You'd have a very tough life being married to this woman, unless she makes some real attitude adjustments where her money is concerned.

I can't say if she's technically bankrupt, but she definitely needs to move into a cheaper apartment and sell the car for starters.

Still, bankruptcy's not going to solve anything if she's got a heart problem. By this, I mean if she buys stuff to try and make her happy and lives beyond her means in the process.

Lots of people have the idea that they are what they drive, or they are where they live. Those are heart problems, and that's the way I was many years ago until I had some sense knocked into me by going broke. Then, I realized I had to stop and make some changes.

This doesn't mean that she isn't worthy of your love or she's a terrible person, but it does mean that the girl has got some growing up to do. Money matters aside, you don't quit your job without a plan unless you're being sexually harassed or abused, or there's some matter of principle at stake.

Leaving one job for another is okay. But the idea of deciding you just don't like something, and walking away from it when you've got a bunch of bills, is just plain irresponsible.

She's probably not bankrupt, but there are some definite character issues that need to be addressed. Hopefully, you two can work through this together.

—Dave

So he knows how to manage money?

Dear Dave,

My husband likes to borrow money on fix-up projects around the house. He says he knows how to manage money, and will pay the loans back quickly. The other day, he came to me for money to make the payment on the latest loan he took out. Then, he started fussing at me when I didn't have the money to make the payment. It's not the first time



Above: William Diamant of HELUS won 1st place in Visual Arts in the Reflections contest. Below: Grace Ritchie: 1st place in photography. Photos: Anja Whitemyer



this sort of thing has happened. How can I make it stop?

Crystal

Dear Crystal,

This guy needs a swift kick in his rear end! He says he knows how to manage money, but he doesn't know how to save up to re-wire the garage?

It sounds to me like you've got an overgrown teenager on your hands instead of a husband. It's bad enough that he can't take care of his own responsibilities, but then he turns around and fusses when you won't do it for him. That's ridiculous!

Marriage is all about unity. Once the rings go on those fingers it's a we thing, not a me thing. Husbands and wives should work together to form a game plan that will help them win in life, and that includes finances.

I think you should take the money he's asking for and use it to see a good marriage counselor. There are some real issues here that need attention. You guys need to deal with them, and create a real marriage, before this situation gets any worse!

—Dave

* For more information on how you can see Dave live, please visit <http://www.daveramsey.com/category/vents/>.

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The Art Page

Todd Cooper
Art Editor

state of the ART in our community

"White Fury - Black Hearts" Three Artist Show in March

Recent works by Donna Weil, Rob Enright, and Candy will adorn the walls of the Lakes & Valleys Gallery throughout the month of March.

Beginning with an opening barbecue reception from 1pm to 5pm on Saturday, March 5th, the show will run through Sunday, March 27th.

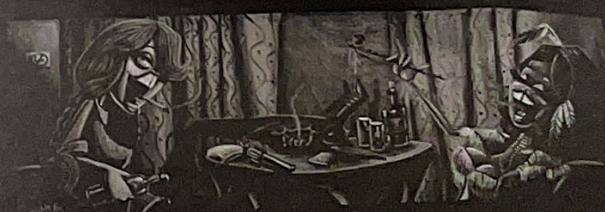
Donna Weil is one of the most popular and best selling artists at LVAG. She will raffle off a painting at the end of this show, and will

also have a sign-up sheet for her upcoming workshop.

Rob Enright is a graduate of Cal Arts and lives in El Segundo. His work has a fluid, decidedly Western flair.

Candy lives in Long Beach and works in a style reminiscent of hot rod artists like Big Daddy Roth, with a bit of '50s illustrator "Shag".

Opening reception sounds will be provided by DJ Rob Weil.



Opening Reception & BBQ March 5th • 1-5pm

LAKES AND VALLEYS ART GUILD & GALLERY

43751 Lake Hughes Road • Lake Hughes, CA 93532

Show Runs March 5th - March 27th

LVAG NOTES

Members: If you have art at the gallery, it is your duty to gallery-sit. Sign up on the calendar in the hallway.

LVAG logo shirts, hats, etc available at www.zazzle.com/TheCoyoteStudios/LVAG
The next LVAG general meeting will be Sunday March 27, 2011, 2pm, at the Lakes & Valleys Gallery, 43751 Lake Hughes Rd, Lake Hughes.

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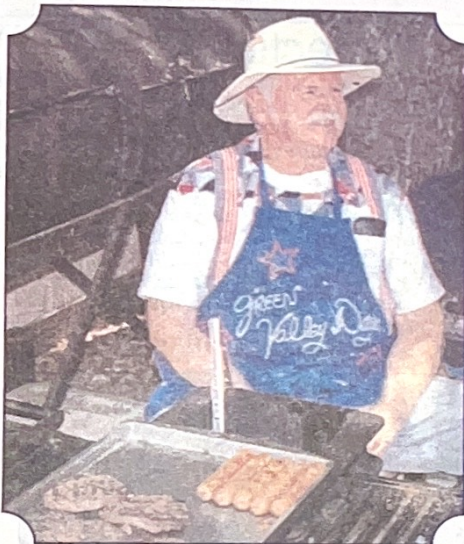
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Reception
Saturday
March 5
1-5pm

Green Valley Honors Paul Bole as the Citizen of the Month: *Gone but not forgotten*



death. On February 5, 2006, Paul went home to be with his Lord. Paul's wife, Lu, is cut from the same mold as Paul. She is a tireless servant in our community and displays the same humble characteristics and is a person who you can count upon. I choose to write about Paul because our valley continues to have new arrivals and it is important that everyone knows about the people who have made Green Valley such a great place to live.

Paul and Lu came to Green Valley in 1993. They had been camping at the local campgrounds for many years prior to the purchase of their home. Several months later, Paul retired from McDonnell Douglas after 29 years. Typical of Paul, one day he arrived at work and noticed that something didn't sound right with the furnace system. Paul immediately took action and an explosion was averted. It is believed that if the explosion had occurred, it would have taken out about a seven-block area of Huntington Beach.

Prior to Paul's employment with McDonnell Douglas, he served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps.

Shortly after Paul and Lu got settled into their home, both became involved in the community. Paul was always that "go-to guy" when you needed a hand. Whether

it was folks stuck in the snow in their cars on a cold winter day or helping one of our seniors out who needed a hand around their home, Paul was always available. You were hard pressed to attend a community event where Paul wasn't the grill master. He loved being behind the barbecue.

To some in town Paul was known as "the fruit man." His orchard always produced a plentiful crop of peaches, plums, apples and persimmons and Paul did not hesitate to share with others in town. In 2001, Paul and Lu were selected as the grand marshals for the Green Valley parade.

When Paul's daughter passed away suddenly, Paul and Lu took on the responsibility of raising their granddaughters, Kayla and Ashlee. Raising his two young granddaughters (ages 5 and 7) in retirement was not on Paul's bucket list. But typical of Paul and Lu, they did not hesitate

to take on this enormous responsibility.

Paul left behind a host of friends, family and a wonderful legacy. Paul is survived by his wife Lu, three sisters (one sister is our own Green Valleyite, Millie McCracken), a son, a step-daughter, seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews, including Jeff McCracken, also of Green Valley.

Paul always greeted you with a smile and a joke. He was the real deal. It is people like Paul who have made America the greatest nation in the world. When the call came, Paul never wavered. I am proud to say that Paul was a friend and a mentor. He was one of Green Valley's finest and I salute him (Sim Per Fi).

Deputy Talks About Illegal Animal Activity

By Lu Bole, senior staff writer

Sheriff's Deputy Rob Ferrell spoke to residents at the February meeting of Green Valley Town Council about illegal animal activity. If you know of anyone engaging in illegal animal activity, such as cockfighting or dogfighting, for example, should immediately notify Sheriff's Deputy Ferrell at the Palmdale Sheriff's Station.

The Humane Society has posted a \$5,000.00 reward to anyone whose testimony results in a conviction in such cases. The Humane Society's direct number is 1-877-NO2-FITE (1-877-662-3483)

By Glenn McConnell, contributing writer
I heard this saying several years ago, "It takes a village." How true that is. When people (community members) roll up their sleeves and give from their hearts, what a profound impact it has on a community and in the quality of life for the people who live there.

Paul Bole was a person who gave from the heart. He was not a big talker who, like many, want to boast about themselves. Paul was a humble man who you could count on through thick and thin. It is folks like Paul who have made Green Valley a wonderful oasis in the mountains to live and raise a family.

Last month marked the fifth anniversary of Paul's

LANCASTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



THE ALUMINUM SHOW

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Tuesday, March 15
Wednesday, March 16

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Local Folks in the News

Go For Fun Meets for Potluch



By Glenn McConnell, contributing writer

The Go For Fun Club had its re-birth two years ago. We are a group of active seniors. Our mission is to enjoy fellowship with other seniors, help one another, help our community and HAVE FUN.

On February 5, we had our monthly potluck. The food was fabulous! My favorite was Doug Mull's shrimp and avocado salad. After our meal, Diana Hart (Anderson) was our guest speaker. Many in town know Diana from her many years of service as a preschool teacher at the Green Valley Bible Chapel.

Diana has been a registered nurse for the past 39 years. Her presentation was on "Advanced Directives." If you become ill and are hospitalized, your "Advanced Directives" will

ensure that medical service providers know your desires for medical treatment.

ATTENTION !!!! We are changing from the first Saturday of the month to the second Saturday of the month for our potluck luncheons. Our next potluck luncheon will be on March 12 at 1 pm at the Green Valley Bible Chapel.

This Spring the club will be attending several local theatrical productions along with some other local day trips and an evening of Bingo.

The Go For Fun Club is open to anyone in the Lakes and Valleys area. It is a great opportunity to meet other seniors and have FUN. For additional information call Glenn or Bonnie at 270-9016.

Reflections

Each year we have students who participate in the Reflections contest through PTA. They can enter work in music composition, dance choreography, literature, visual arts and photography in different grade level categories. On Feb. 3 the students competed with eight other schools in Antelope Valley. All our students received certificates from us (HELUS), the PTA District, Supervisor Antonovich's office and the Palmdale Mayors office.

Photo below: These students participated in the district level event: Back row: Marina Garcia, Brooke Deville, William Diamant, Abigail Kersey, Garcia; middle row: Emily Duvall, Ryan Hambro, Chole Williams, Michael Duvall; front row: Meghan Smith, Grace Ritchie, Marnie Whitemyer, Elizabeth Borowski

Thanks to photographer Anja Whitemyer for the photo.



A beautiful picture of the snow covering Elizabeth Lake and the Tehachapi Mountains is spoiled by a huge transmission tower smack dab in the middle of it. Photo by Linda Schulz.

Poppy Reserve Seeks Volunteers

California State Parks is now accepting volunteer applications for the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve's upcoming wildflower season (March through May). Learn about the wildflowers, wildlife, history and volunteer duties at the two-day training; no experience or prior knowledge is required.

Volunteer opportunities include staffing the visitor center and gift shop, walking the trails, and/or leading tours. After the wildflower season, enjoy volunteer field trips and other fun activities with new friends!

Volunteers may range in age from student to senior citizen, must be interested in learning, and have a positive, friendly attitude. Applicants must complete training and fingerprinting, and a minimum of eight hours per month is requested but scheduling is flexible.

Call (661) 946-6900 or email your name, phone number and address to jrhynne@parks.ca.gov to sign up for the training and have an Application Packet sent to you.

When: 9 am - 3 pm, Saturdays, February 26 and March 5 (must attend both days)

Where: Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve, 15101 Lancaster Road, Lancaster.

Directions: From Highway 14, go west off the Avenue I exit and continue 15 miles. Avenue I turns into Lancaster Road; the reserve is on the right.

From Highway 138, go south on 170th Street West and left on Lancaster Road. The reserve is on the left.

Rummage Sale

March 19 and 20
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Mission

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Lindaman at 270-
9172.

March 19: 8:00 - 4:00
March 20 11:00 - 4:00



Highpoint winners



Leona Valley Gymkhana Riders Brave the Cold

By Heather Ross, contributing writer

It was cold and rainy during the first Leona Valley Gymkhana of the year. The day started with the opening ceremonies of the Leona Valley Gymkhana Queens' queen wave and flag run. Little Miss Alyna Eaves carried the Leona Valley Gymkhana flag, Junior Miss Madeline Lutz carried the California flag, and Miss Heather Ross carried the American flag. Riders and volunteers said the Pledge of Allegiance and a short prayer.

Even in the cold, the riders were amazing and throughout the day everyone ate wonderful food made by the Gymkhana Queen moms: Tara Eaves, Teri Lutz, and Tracy Ross.

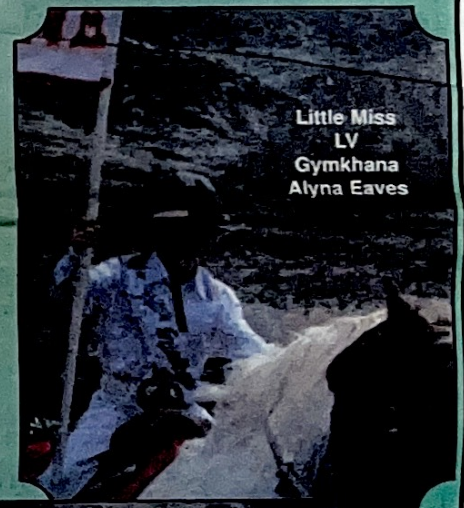
The rain clouds that threatened to cancel the rest of the day waited until the very last rider of the day was done with their event. Then it poured and our highpoint winners of the day were announced: AAA-Alicia Eaves, AA- Donna Kaye, A2 - Sabrina Rinehart, A1 - Ariel Sanders, Novice 18 and Over - Kathryn Sanders, Novice 2 - Adelyne Wedell, and Novice 1 - Amy Carroll. Congratulations to our highpoint winners!

A special thank you goes to the sponsors of the gymkhana: Hemme Hay and Feed and Ranchers Market.

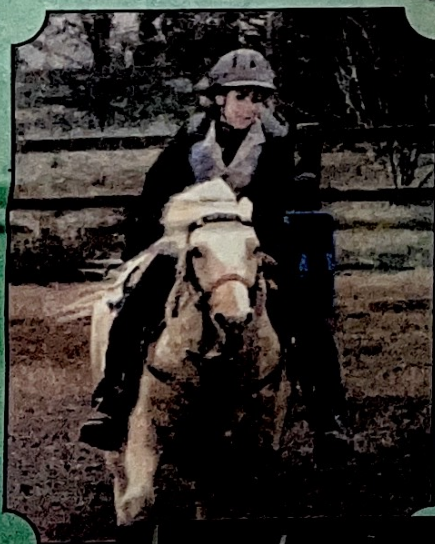
The next gymkhana will be on March 19. We can't wait to see everyone there! The remaining gymkhanas for 2011 are scheduled for May 14, June 25, and September.

The Leona Valley Gymkhana Queen Pageant is set for October 22-23.

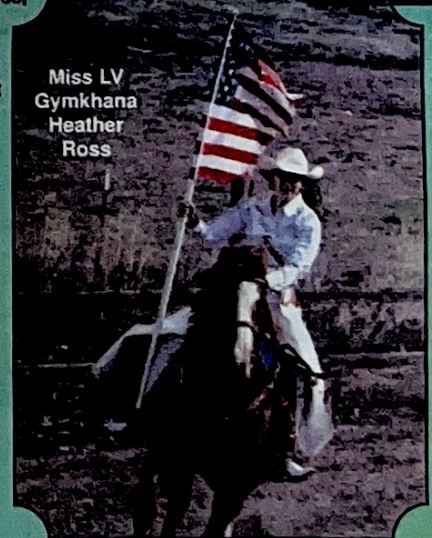
Editor's note: Heather Ross is the current Miss Leona Valley Gymkhana, and a Junior at Paraclete High School.



Little Miss
LV
Gymkhana
Alyna Eaves



Jr. Miss
LV
Gymkhana
Madeline
Lutz



Miss LV
Gymkhana
Heather
Ross

Mountain Yodeler's Annual Yard Sale Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who helped with *The Yodeler's* third annual yard sale in January, including those who donated items to be sold, those who shopped till they dropped, and the dedicated group of people who worked with me on the sale day after day. We had a very good turnout.

My friends Merrie Profitt, Judy Miller, Bonnie McConnell, Cindy Lindaman, took charge and kept things running smoothly for five days. Sharon Lehner, Linda Joynt, Ellie Reisner and the whole Hamilton family also were a huge help. Glenn McConnell and Hayden Mitchell played the invaluable role of picking up large items from people's homes with their truck. Dennis Miller, Tom Joynt, Bud Lehner, Greg Lindaman and Frank Toothaker helped unload the trailers and trucks. A special thanks to the Joynts for letting me store items in their trailer during the month before the sale.

We really had some high quality items, including some antiques and collectible items. Several people remarked about how organized the merchandise was and what great bargains they were finding.

All the unsold items were donated to charity, including several boxes of nice clothes to the women's shelter and to Warm Springs.

When the sale was over, several of us went to Mahli's Indian Restaurant for their wonderful lunch buffet.

Dahlia

Photos by Cindy Lindaman



Shoppers



Some of the "crew" after the sale



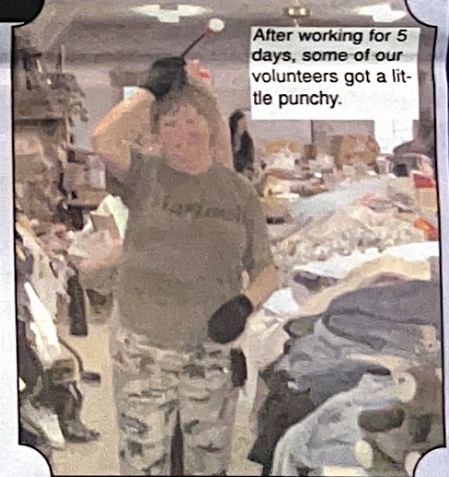
Some of the many treasures you could have bought.



Shoppers said it was the most organized yard sale they had ever seen.



Dahlia, Sharon, Merrie and Judy



After working for 5 days, some of our volunteers got a little punchy.



Ellie (back to us) waits on customers.



It's worth much more, says Bonnie to a customer.



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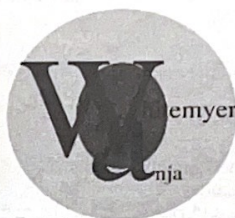
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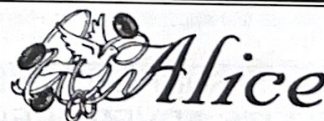
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History: Palmdale's Old Schoolhouse

Palmdale started in the mid 1800s. It was known as the town of Palmenthal.

According to area folklore, the travelers had been told they would know they were close to the ocean when they saw palm trees. Never actually having seen palm trees before, they mistook the local Joshua trees for palms and so named their settlement after them. (Palmenthal is German for Palms Valley.)

By the 1890s, the last of the indigenous antelopes, which the valley was named after, had died. Farming families continued to migrate to Palmenthal and nearby Harold to grow grain and fruit.

The village was officially established upon the arrival of a post office on June 17, 1888. The only remaining pieces of evidence of the original settlements of Palmenthal are the old Palmdale Pioneer cemetery located on the northeast corner of Avenue S and 20th Street East, recently acquired and restored by the city as part of a future historical park, and the old schoolhouse now relocated to McAdam Park.

The road to the original town is located in the corner of Barrel Springs and Sierra Hwy. There are a couple of older buildings, some dating from the 1950s.

But one of the original landmarks is on the dirt road going east on Barrel Springs Road. Once you pass the horse area, you will come across old roads on your right side. It has become a junk site. But walking around you will still find evidence of its once heyday.

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Justified Still Shooting

By Lu Bole

For the past few months, the TV show "Justified" has filmed in Green Valley. The crew has now asked permission to use the grounds of the Green Valley Community Hall for future filming.

Officer Blount of the US Forest Service was asked at the February meeting of the Green Valley Town Council whether this would be acceptable, as the Community Hall is on Forest Service land.

Officer Blount stated that there are other filming crews working in other parts of the USFS land every day, and he sees no problem in allowing them to do their work on this Forest Service land, as long as they follow normal usage regulations.

The rent paid by the TV show will generate funds for repairs to the Community Hall.

What is the Future of the Golf Course?

The county may "partner" with the owners of Lake Elizabeth Golf Course, according to Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich. But Hickling says that nothing has been decided or finalized.

Hickling said, at the February 5 meeting of The Lakes Town Council, that the county is discussing the feasibility of options, which could include making the area open space for the community. "We are still communicating with the bank to see what can be done," said Hickling. "Everyone is committed in wanting to do something good for the community," he said.



Above: Michael Duvall won 1st place in literature in HELUS' Reflections content.

Below: Marina Garcia and her brother won 1st place in dance choreography. Photos: Anja Whitemyer.



WEATHER OR NOT?

Weather data for Elizabeth Lake area (Elevation 3450 ft.)

By Tom Kaucher
January 2011

Temperature

High- 72° on 1-17 Low- 24° on 1-5
Average High-53.2° Average Low-32.8°
Average Temperature-43.0°
Lowest High-33° on 1-2
Highest Low-43° on 1-29

Precipitation

Precipitation-0.93"(3.98" Below Average, 8.02" Below Last Year)
Seasonal Precipitation (7-1-10 to 1-31-11) - 18.32"
(6.88" Above Average, 1.28" Above Last Year)
Snowfall- 7.5" Last year- 2.3"

Outlook for March 2011

March 21st brings the end of winter and the start of spring. March has the second highest average precipitation for any month of the year and a good potential for snowfall. Daytime highs will range from the low 40s to low 70s and overnight lows from the low 20s to mid-40s.

March Averages and Records

Temperature

High- 88° in 2007 Low- 21° in 1982
Average High-61.4° Average Low-37.1°
Average Temperature-49.3°
Average Precipitation- 3.48"

Precipitation

Greatest Precipitation-13.81" in 1983
2010 Precipitation- 0.79"
Average Snowfall- 1.6"
Greatest 24 hr. Precipitation- 4.60" on 3-1-1983
Greatest Snowfall- 12.5" in 1991
2010 Snowfall- 0.1"

Did you know? The longest lasting Pacific Hurricane was named John. It lasted for 31 days. Since it crossed dateline twice, it changed from a hurricane to a typhoon and back to a hurricane.

The High Desert Organic Gardener

By Robert Kerekes
Contributing writer

The Amazon suffered from billions of tree deaths from a severe drought in 2010, which prompted scientific concerns that the Amazon, the largest carbon sink in the world, may be reaching a tipping point to where it will no longer be a carbon sink but a huge carbon contributor due to the decaying process of so many trees.

At the same time, Subhankar Banerjee writes from Santa Fe, New Mexico, about the extreme weather conditions occurring where he lives. He said they had record temperatures in June and July of 100 degrees. A four-year drought in northern New Mexico killed 90 percent of the pinon (pine) trees in northern New Mexico.

Then in very early February, Santa Fe broke the record with the lowest temperature ever: minus 15 degrees, with a wind chill factor of minus 40 degrees, which wrecked havoc on local cacti, like the cholla cactus.

My question is "When does humanity respond to this massive crisis of climate change, aka global warming?" My answer is "When it is way too late."

It is so obvious that we humans, with our great numbers and technical achievements, are, in exchange for the lifestyle we all want, destroying life everywhere in so many ways, ways we can't even imagine because the connections can be so difficult to see.

Gardening deniers who do not believe in climate change will have problems adjusting to the effects in the garden. I used to plant garlic in October; this season I planted garlic in December and my early variety still is further along than I want it to be. I also planted the fava beans later and they are popping along.

At the same time, climate change, while warming the planet overall, is causing more severe changes, like deep cold and searing hot in the same area. One night in early February it was nine degrees here in Antelope Acres. That is getting close to doing in some of the winter plants, while much of the winter is warmer.

It is still time to plant some bare root trees, shrubs, berries and grapes. The general rule of thumb is bare root plants should be planted before growth for whatever is to be planted. For instance almond and apricot trees may start to bloom in late February/early March. At that point it is better to plant potted trees of those varieties.

Whether planting bare roots or potted trees, etc., it is best to dig a decent sized hole, primarily to loosen the soil so the roots will have an easy job of growing. There is some controversy over whether or not to add amendments, such as compost or seasoned manures. Adding amendments would give the trees some

immediate nourishment, which could be an asset. On the other side there are those that feel the soil should not be amended and the tree should be planted in the soil as it is with amendments added to the surface and allowed to slowly flow down to the roots over time.

Basically, trees do not need much fertilization. They put roots down deep and it is this ability that allows them to bring nutrition from deeper down. On the other hand, if certain nutrients, such as potassium, are lacking, then these should be added.

An orchard containing many varieties of fruits and nuts is one of the easiest ways to provide food. Once established they require little in the way of maintenance compared to a vegetable garden. The most problems I have had has been with birds eating apricots, peaches, cherries, and plums.

Pruning is the single most demanding job and does require some time to master.

The area in which one lives determines what to plant. The mountains are better for berries, cherries and all varieties that require a cooler climate with colder winters, while the desert flats work well for almonds and figs. Some fruits, like apples and peaches, will do well in both areas.

Remember that apricots are programmed to flower soon after freezes, as the temperature warms. Here we can have serious warmth followed by serious freezes, which then kills the flowers or the just developing fruit. It is not uncommon for apricots to produce little or no fruit every year.

In order to determine conditions where you live, keep track of temperature readings throughout the year to help determine what to grow where you live. Also, learn the chill factor requirements of those trees that need to have a minimum chill factor each winter.

Try planting potatoes, sweet potatoes and corn this year. A hot weather sweet corn is Anastasi from Bountiful Gardens.

I have way too many chickens so I have some for sale for anyone looking for adult chickens.

The Garden Co-op meets monthly on the second Saturday at 2 pm at my place in Antelope Acres. The next meeting is March 12, 2011. The first hour will be a class open to everyone. The topic is: Seasonal Growing All Year. The fee is seven dollars. After class is an open discussion, followed by work in the garden for participating members. Call or e-mail me for directions.

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Can't we all just get along?

An opinion by S.Campbell

It can be very confusing trying to wade through the political marshland of untruths and misconstrued statements. That is why most people prefer to listen to the media. It's quicker, easier, and you can easily convince yourself that it is unbiased, just like they tell you.

I think the most important factor in deciding what to believe should not be based on what organization you have aligned yourself with. This country has long been ruled by a society that disregards the actual issues in lieu of preset political ideals.

Don't fully understand it? Don't want to understand it because it might contradict your party's doctrines? The solution is simple. Don't research. Don't investigate. Too much trouble. Your life is complicated enough without having to worry about these things. Except on election day.

Or when a rival group does something that you, as a member of an opposing group, have been told you should despise, fear, and oppose. It will take away freedom, your group says. It will kill people, give money to those who don't deserve it, cause the ultimate demise of America.

This is what people are saying to gain support for their movements. And the scary thing is, it works on an astronomical scale. Sure, I might disagree with what it is you're saying, but I am also pretty sure you're not a Nazi, or a socialist, or a terrorist.

The people that vote on propositions and for candidates generally don't understand the implications of what they are doing. They are simply acting as sheep, doing what they are told will help this country by the leaders of their chosen organization.

The truth is that had you been placed in circumstances where you were led to believe the opposing party's viewpoints were valid and truthful, you would have a completely different political outlook. This underlines just how false our political system is.

Imagine if your family was all a member of the party opposing your current one. You were raised in a household that believed in no government, or that gays are against God's will, or that we should support everyone through government funded social programs. Chances are you would be living by those ideals.

Of course it would be unfair to

suggest everyone adheres to preset belief systems. Many people actually do pay close attention to the ebb and flow of politics, and base their decisions on that.

The thing is, paying attention is not the same as watching FOX or MSNBC, both of which have a political bias. Nearly all the information that comes out of news groups is meant to persuade you to believe something a certain way. FOX is purely conservative, while MSNBC is mainly liberal. The only thing to do is read actual legislation, and decide for yourself what the implications are.

Sadly, that is very uncommon.

What our system lacks is the ability to appreciate other peoples' viewpoints. Whatever example the television sets, the average person needs to be able to coherently debate an issue without descending into shouted rage. If someone has a different idea of what will improve the country than we do, we need to view it as an opportunity.

If we were to open our minds just a little, we might realize that no one who is interested in politics wants to harm this country. We all want basically the same thing: to better the U. S. of A. So instead of opposing or supporting something "because I am a conservative" or "because I am a liberal," we must overcome bias and hatred in order for this big crazy science experiment called democracy to work.

Budget Cuts Could Hit Home

State budget cuts could have a major impact on our area, according to Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich.

Budget cuts could affect new parks, new deputies, plowing of streets after storms, etc., Hickling said at the February 5 meeting of The Lakes Town Council.

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The Way I See It!

Deadly Modesty

An Opinion By Norm Judd

With terror in our midst, what is reasonable for flight safety?

John Tyner was about to board a PSA flight in San Diego last November when he refused an X-ray scan and threatened to have the TSA employee arrested if his "junk" was touched during a pat down. When told he could not fly he left the airport but posted the experience on the web.

Since then, every radical, including the ACLU, has raised Constitutional issues. Even a woman who claims she was scrutinized because of her large breasts!

Tyner was absurd! Could he have missed 911, explosives in a shoe and an undershorts bomb that nearly burned off a terrorist's "junk"?

Whether or not the new full-body scanner is up to the task, being screened privately is not something flyers should dread. Would they prefer that their precious parts be exploded onto some hillside?

Scanned images would excite only Darth Vader. I wonder if Tyner ever strutted on the beach in his Speedos. I'm embarrassed if my fly is unzipped, but to avoid being blown to bits, I would stand unclothed at halftime during the Super Bowl! Are we talking about modesty or stupidity?

Old Jonesey, owner of our Lake Hughes Cafe in 1977, told about skinny dipping in an Oklahoma pond. One naked youth had an irritating habit of walking boldly along the bank while his less endowed pals hunkered below the surface. Perhaps Tyner had a similar concern.

The TSA guy was searching for explosives, not a thrill. I hated searching arrestees! Patting down urine soaked winos was disgusting enough for Mike Rowe to call it a Dirty Job. And scrutinizing unclad dancing girls in clubs got boring but someone had to do it!

A flight attendant complained about having to show her breast prosthesis to a female inspector, in a private room. Of all people, she should be concerned about an exploding bra! My sister-in-law has the same device and doesn't object to searches.

After all the hoop-la, profiling is the best way to find the guy with a grenade in his shorts. Listen to the libs scream about that! That's how Israel handles it so well but with private (not government) personnel.

I hate agreeing with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, but her defense of the scanner made a lot more sense than Judge Napolitano (probably not related) contending that searches were undignified and more discreet safety inspections are needed. What?

A friend forwarded an idea I liked. No X-rays or pat-downs. Just a booth everyone would enter alone that would electronically detonate any explosives. And then an announcement: "We have a vacancy on flight 311!"

Aren't some folks a bit ridiculous? When I fly I want to see two airports! And any screener is welcome to check out my 79-year-old frame, even if they chuckle. Life over modesty is "The Way I See It!"

Writers Wanted for Anthology

By G. L. Helm

The Antelope Valley is a treasure trove of artistic and literary talent, though no one seems to know it. Everyone seems to know that Judy Garland and John Wayne and Frank Zappa were from Lancaster, but everyone is surprised when they find out that Aldous Huxley, author of *Brave New World* and many other novels spent most of the last 40 years of his life living quietly near Pearblossom. They are more astounded still when they are told that the Poet Laureate of the United States, Kay Ryan, is from here. But there are others who have seized on the literary atmosphere of the valley and are trying to get the news of our literary heritage out.

In 2003 a man named Rod Williams, a teacher of reading and a poet, decided that the AV needed a literary voice so he asked many of his literary friends to contribute work, poetry, short stories, essays, and some other material that is not so easily quantifiable which he pulled together into a the first Antelope Valley Anthology. He called it *Tales of the Green Jackalope*.

It was a rather homely offspring brought about with a huge amount of labor, but AV Anthology #1 came into being. The material included was very good but the format was so rough it didn't even have page numbers.

Still the birth of that literary baby gave Rod a hunger to see more of these literary children and out of that desire came *Red Skies Like Nowhere Else on Earth*, the second AV Anthology.

Once more the material included was very good and the format smoothed a good deal but because Rod was working full time at the Palmdale Library Adult Literacy program he had little time for book production or sales. He feared *Red Skies* would be the last of a noble experiment but he talked about it with many friends, including one who fancied himself a publisher as well as a writer.

MousePrints Publishing had been pulled together for the sole purpose of publishing G. L. Helm's first novel. Helm had learned a great deal about publishing and book design through that adventure and when Rod Williams asked if he would like to take over as publisher of the AV anthologies Helm took the bait like a hungry bass, and the

string of AV anthologies began to grow.

Number Three was called *Aldous Huxley Slept Here* and it included work from about 20 poets and authors. It also included a cover based on a painting by local artist Edmund Vasquez. As with the first two there was no real theme, just a gathering together of the wonderful literary arts of local writers.

Number four was *Granfalloon*, named in honor of Kurt Vonnegut, who had died during the gathering of material for that book. Again, the book included wonderful works of poetry and fiction and essays and it was wrapped in a cover designed from a photograph by Marilyn Dalrymple.

The Anthology is now seven years old. We have come through *Off the 14*, *The Raven and the Writing Desk* and *Hard Times*. The books have gotten better each year, with higher and higher quality work. As witness to this, *Hard Times* is up for a national award from the Independent Publishers Network. The book is still made up of the work local writers, published by a local publisher and financed by contributions and patronage lines from local businesses and interested parties.

We are preparing to publish AV Anthology #8 and we are asking anyone who fancies themselves to be a writer or poet to submit work for possible publication. As always, there is no theme. The only requirements are that the work be that of the submitting author, that it be no more than 5,000 in length for fiction or essay and no more than 100 lines for poetry.

Such works should be submitted by e mail to mouseprint@earthlink.net. No "hardcopy" submissions will be accepted. For further information please call 661 951 6306.

mouseprint@earthlink.net



Photos: Top: Abigail Kersey won 2nd place for visual arts in HELUS' Reflections contest. Bottom: Emily Duvall was also a winner. Photos: Anja Whitemyer.

THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

Editor/Publisher - Dahlia Grossman

Production: Dahlia Grossman

Staff Writers: Lu Bole, Norm Judd, Shawny Kaltenbach

Contributing writers:

Dawn Baertlein, Glenn McConnell, Robert Kerekes, Laura "cha" Vernetti, Allaire Koslo, Norm Judd, Jennifer Ivanov, Linda-Marcella Berg, Cindy Lindaman, Art Editor: Todd Cooper

Soldier's Page Editor: Jan Carlson

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ARTICLES/PHOTOS: Deadline is 15th of the month. Please email to dahlia.grossman@Verizon.net or mail to Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

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soldiers news

Soldier News

By Jan Carlson, staff writer

Can you believe March is here already!! Doesn't necessarily mean warmer weather, but it is here. I need to ask a favor from everyone out there. It has come to my attention that any "expired" or outdated food products we send overseas gets tossed out at the other end. So please check the expiration date on food so we aren't sending expired goods and taking up space and weight that other foods could be using. I know all of you are very careful as it is, but I just wanted to remind everyone.

It is still pretty cold over there, especially at nights. Like it is here. They are still getting snow in some places. They need gloves, scarves, hot chocolate, coffee, tea, cider and other warm drinks. There has also been a request for ankle socks and long cotton socks. There is a website, "Extreme Outfitters" that will show you a backpack (T.H.E. PACK) that has also been requested by some soldiers. This backpack is a little out of our price range right now, but it is a thought for any extra money from this year's yard sale. *There are gloves and sunglasses on this site that have been asked for, too.*

I have added 3 new names this month. SPC Joshua Clark is with a unit from Idaho. There are 9 men and 1 woman in his unit. So everything sent to him, he shares with these people.

A couple more requests, a watch and a pair of ladies compression shorts (the spandex kind for working out) size med.

LCpl Jared Miller's unit is from California, and there are 25 men in his unit. Anything he gets is shared among them.

They have been given a bread maker, but lack bread mixes to make bread! So we need bread mixes!

SPC Kathryn Fish, our third new person, is from Missouri.

Needed again are the usual things, candy, gum, jerky, pop top foods, packets of oatmeal, cream of wheat, toothpaste, toothbrushes, games, puzzles, playing cards, Easter decorations (keep it simple), paperback books, magazines, T-shirts with company names on them (or anything with a plain t shirt), sunglasses, gloves, eye drops, lip balm, foot powder, and the list goes on and on. Just be creative and send whatever you would like to get!

Don't forget to fly your flag as often as you possibly can! It does not have to be a holiday to show your patriotism. If you know of a veteran, young or old,

thank them for what they have done for our country. Befriend a veteran, and you will always have a friend. We are the land of the free because of our military.

SOLDIER LIST FEB. 2011

SrA Heidi Tuley
332 EMXS/ARMAMENT
APO AE 09315-9997

PFC RICHARDSON, JAROD
HHC 2/6 TH INF MORTARS CAMP
CARVERS
2 BCT 1 AD
APO AE 09308

SPC RICHARDSON, JACOB
US NIC
APO AE 09780

SGT JONES, MATTHEW
205TH ASMC
APO AE 09375-0531

SPC DENISE M. STEVENS
632 ND MAINTENANCE
CO CO BADDER IRAQ
APO AE 09331

AOAN HAGERTY, JOSHUA
BOX 22
U. S. JOHN C. STENNIS
CVN 74
FPO AP 96615-2874

ZACHERY NELSON
DCO 6-101 AVN REGT
TF SHADOW
APO AE 09355

PFC BRANDON MARTIN
HHC CO. 526 BSB
2 BCT. 101 TH ABN DIVISION
FOB WILSON
APO AE 09370

1st LT. HOUSEL, ANDREW
D B TROOP 2-1
CAV 4-2 SBCT
APO AE 09378

LCPL JARED S. MILLER
ATTN: ANY MARINE
3 D LAR BN C CO. 3 PLT
UNIT 41695
FPO AP 96427

SPC JOSHUA CLARK
B-BTRY 1-148 FA BA
FOB PROSPERITY
APO AE 09348

SPC FISH, KATHRYN (MOUTRAY)
A CO. 601 ST ASB 1 ID
APO, AE 09378

"Green" Energy: How much is too much?

Robert Kerekes, president, Westside Citizens for Environmental Responsibility

The recent push by both federal and state Agencies to fast-track renewable energy facilities has created a rapid inundation of renewable energy companies in the greater Antelope Valley area and particularly so here on the west side.

Our proximity to the dense populations in the nearby lower mountains and valleys, our high wind and sunlit areas, and the fact that we are a desert - viewed by many as wasteland - has helped to create the idea, in the minds of many of those associated with these projects, that anything goes, and goes quickly.

What we are beginning to see is that so-called green, utility scale, renewable energy projects cause environmental problems of their own. It is obvious that no matter what the method of producing electricity is, so far, there is always some downside.

One huge solar facility has already been approved. Most solar projects under consideration are situated on mostly flat desert. Problems with solar arrays stem from the amount of area they cover (hundreds of acres and more), how close the panels are to each other, types of panels, grading, conditioning of soil to control wind-blown sand and water runoff and fencing (which inhibits the free flow of various species, displacement of species, and loss of habitat).

One very large project is pure wind generation and would cover an 8,000-acre tract of land through the mountainous region in the western Antelope Valley known as Portal Ridge, beginning south of the Poppy Preserve, in the north bordering part of Lancaster Road, in the west in the mountainous areas to what would be about 200th Street and Kings Canyon, and with the southern border coming close to Pine Canyon Road.

Mitigation requires that each project must purchase a certain number of other properties that will be kept as ongoing natural habitat. Concerns are that we will end up with isolated islands of habitat, situated between a haphazard, piecemeal distribution of solar panels arrays.

What happens to the mitigated lands over the long haul? Who is responsible for them and in what way and what access will the public have to such lands?

Will future traveling of the 138 from the 14 to the 5 become a trip through Electrowire with endless arrays of photovoltaic panels on the flats and endless arrays of towers with spinning blades throughout the surrounding mountains? How do we benefit from being the electric basket for the great populations down below? How much is enough? How much is too much?

Letter to Lakes Town Council

Dear Council Members,

I write to you as a resident of Lake Elizabeth. In February 2009 the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning approved the Community Standards District (CSD) for the Lakes. That document is specific regarding building requirements, but does not adequately address other large-scale development concerns -- many of which we can only imagine.

The Community Standards and Land Use Committee is a standing committee under your Bylaws. For the last two years that committee has been inactive. I request that the town council reactivate that committee in order to be informed of any new developments in the area -- whether large housing developments or huge energy projects which would destroy wildlife corridors and seriously disrupt the rural atmosphere that we so enjoy. Because it is a standing committee, it requires no vote to reactivate it. It simply requires action and commitment.

The purpose of the committee as stated in the Bylaws is clear and succinct:

"Shall serve as liaison for the council,

with respect to growth and land use policies, with governmental agencies, as well as public and private interest groups, under the direction and approval of the council."

The committee should be active and in touch with the County, as well as citizens' groups that are monitoring the power projects, housing developments, etc. It is incumbent upon the leadership of the council to be informed; to convey the voice of the community to the County and to inform the community of any new developments that may be detrimental to our way of life.

As it stands, we have the planned city of Centennial at Tejon Ranch; Ritter Ranch and another development in Leona Valley. The golf course and RV resort as well as two large parcels slated for housing developments in Lake Elizabeth are in financial straights. There are thousands of acres of land in the Lakes alone that are vulnerable to large development.

The entire area appears to be in the process of being scouted by so-called "green" energy companies to

See Letter, page 22

Real Estate Market: Boom or Bust?

Buy now or wait for even lower home prices?

By Linda Marcella Berg, Contributing Writer

Home prices are historically low and interest rates are attractive, and this may be the winning combination for close-to-perfect timing with a home purchase. We may not be at the absolute rock bottom price-wise, but if interest rates go up even 1 point at that ultimate rock-bottom price time-frame, you could lose money by paying that extra point over the life of the loan.

You may be waiting for the owner of a \$500K home to get desperate and drop their price another 50K. However, if interest rates go up 1% by the time they reduce the price on their home, then you've just defeated your purpose since you will now be paying an additional \$90K over the life of a 30-year loan. It goes to show that the interest rate on your loan to purchase is just as important as the price of the home itself. It may very well be that in five years from now you will hear people say "Wow, I should have bought when the prices were good and the interest rates were low in 2011!"

HOW TO GET THE BEST DEAL ON A BANK-OWNED PROPERTY

I'm going to let you in on a little secret for getting the best price when buying an REO (Real Estate Owned) or bank-owned property. Many times a bank-owned property sells very quickly when it first hits the market and you may have 3 or 4 bidders or more fighting for that purchase. Then the bank will turn around and ask for "highest and best" bid from all offers. People can get a little crazy when this happens and drive the price up by offering more than they probably should just because they have an emotional attachment or strong desire to have that one particular home.

These are not the deals you are going to get the best value from. There's a term in the business called "battered history" and these could be defined as the homes that have been in escrow a few times already and have fallen out for whatever reason, and the result is the home has been on the market on and off for a total of 90 days or more. These properties usually have been reduced in price a few times, as well.

The asset managers in charge of selling these properties at the bank get a little itchy over getting these homes sold as they are now considered a problem. These are the prop-

erties you can bid 10% less than the asking price and have a good chance of getting your bid accepted. The general rule is it's okay to low-ball if it's a "battered history" property. However, if you bid below 10% of the list price, you are probably just whistling Dixie and you may insult the bank to the point where they won't want to see you get that home. Remember, these are human beings making these decisions just like you and I.

I had a buyer last year who bid all cash on a property that had been in and out of escrow, had septic problems, needed work, etc. My buyer got a very low bid accepted because they went for the "dog" that no else wanted at that point. That "dog" is now a little palace and a great rental property and investment for my client. Of course, they had to put more money into the property to get it up-to-par, but they probably have around 30K equity in that home now and it will only get better from here.

ARE SHORT SALES GOOD TO BID ON?

Short sales are a complicated animal that we have to break down into factors to come up with the right decision of whether or not to go for it and bid on them.

Here are some important factors to consider with short sales:

One Loan or Two?

First and more important issue: how many loans does that homeowner have on the home? If the people who are in trouble making their payments have a first and a second mortgage, and they are with 2 different banks or financial institutions, this cuts your chances in half of getting this one through. The reason is you must satisfy both of those lenders and get their approval in writing before you can close that escrow. To make matters worse, the first usually will only allow the second to receive a certain amount. The second usually won't settle for that amount the first wants them to have. Now you have a problem and a stalemate on that escrow.

The Long Wait

As a buyer you may wait anywhere from 30 days to a year to get that approval in writing and find out if they will even take your offer. If you're not in a hurry and you really want that home, it could be worth waiting for.

Who's at the Helm?

Ask the listing agent how many short sales he or she has closed. If they haven't closed many, they could get lost in the woods and you could be doomed from the start. It takes a

lot of consistent communication with the bank on a weekly basis to get these processed. Many banks such as B of A and Chase Bank can have up to 200 short sales assigned to one negotiator. That means the polite and squeaky wheel gets the oil, if you know what I mean.

To Low-Ball or Not to Low-Ball?

It's not likely the bank will go for a low-ball offer on a short sale. The bank will send out an appraiser and order a BPO (Broker Price Opinion) on that property just before they give their approval on the price they will sell it for. This means they want within a certain percentage of what their appraisal or bpo valued the home at, and that will be close to the going market value.

Vacant Homes are Vandal Targets!

If the home is vacant for several months waiting for the approval process, it is susceptible to vandalism. The people losing the home usually don't have the money to cover the costs for repair and replacement. So it's actually better when people stay put in that home just to protect it during the escrow process, especially in the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale.

I had a vacant home short sale in Lake Elizabeth that was vandalized several times during the approval-waiting process, and those vandals turned out to be unsupervised minors, so it happens even in Lake Elizabeth. They also vandalized the vacant home right next door causing several thousands of dollars of repair costs.

By the way, that was the longest short sale I've ever done and it took around 2 years and 4 buyers before it finally closed. There were also two loans which had to be negotiated. What a celebration and accomplishment when that one closed!

Well, now that you know the "low-down" on short sales, the up side is there are usually not as many competitive bids because many people steer clear of them! Remember, they are not impossible to get through, they just have many hoops to jump through to get there.

Happy House hunting everyone, and I am available via phone or email if you have any other concerns you would like to talk about.

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Letter, from p. 21

create an energy corridor in place of a wildlife corridor. There are people who have built their dream homes in secluded areas whose visions of quietude and enjoyment of nature will be fragmented and eventually defeated by such development.

Most immediately, I have been told, there is a company that wants to put a number of 510' tall wind turbines nearby. (There should be a presentation at a future Lakes Town Council meeting regarding this project.) The flashing lights from the turbines would be easily visible from the Lakes. Just take a look at night at Johnson and 110th Street to see what I'm referring to.

Anyone who cares at all about light pollution and dark skies, not to mention Significant Ecological Areas, should pay attention. In addition, how will these energy companies transport their energy? Portal Ridge is a distinct possibility. That's right through our back yard. The potential impact on wildlife is shocking! Imagine all of the machinery and roads it takes to erect a 510' turbine, plus maintenance. In addition, who knows what will happen to our property values?

An active Community Standards and Land Use Committee will enable us to respond to and be informed of new projects in advance. Knowledge is power and we need to be in touch with the County and the community, as well as conversing with our neighbors in surrounding areas to stay informed.

In short, I urge the Lakes Town Council to reactivate the committee and hope that volunteers from the community will participate. For the sake of our community, our wildlife and our children, please be proactive, not reactive.

Sincerely,
Louisa Stephen

**St. Patrick's Day
Dinner
March 17
5 - 8 pm
Leona Valley
Community Building
Sponsored by
Sertoma**

Horse Nutrition and Laminitis

By Shawny Kaltenbach
Staff writer

Regardless of the expression, "healthy as a horse," there are many ailments plaguing horses today and just as many opinions about horse health and nutrition from laymen and men of science alike. Horses and humans share up to 90 hereditary diseases and Insulin Resistance is one of them. The reason this is an important one, is that it's been noticed to be present when there is Laminitis, a dangerous condition which can cause lameness and pain in your horses' feet.

Insulin Resistance is more common in areas where the sugar content of the hay is higher. There's an index for measuring sugar content called the table of NSC values of various equine feeds. Sugar (glucose) in the blood comes primarily from foods eaten. Grains like oats and corn as well as commercial grain mixtures and sweet feeds contain a high amount of sugar and starch and will increase blood glucose levels substantially more than plain beet pulp.

According to an online database by Dairy One, oats and corn have an average NSC (Non-Structural Carbohydrate values of total sugar and starch) level of 44% and 73%. This makes grain too sugary for most horses who are kept for pleasure riding or those kept as pets that stand in stalls most of the day. Another danger is with bagged commercially prepared feeds with too much added sugars.

A smart thing to do is to find out the NSC value of the bagged food you give your horse. Some people are concerned that there's even a connection between hyperactive behavior in horses and the amount of molasses, and therefore sugar, in their grain mix. Since horses are herbivores and hay/pasture is their primary feed, commercial horse feeds are used to balance the nutrients and to maintain the weight and health of horses.

Too many calories and not enough activity could also exacerbate health problems. An NSC value higher than 20% could be the culprit. There are many new equine feeds on the market today that are "low starch" and almost all big-name companies carry one, including Purina and Triple Crown.

There are laboratories that will test your hay for sugar content as well. For a complete list of labs, go to foragetesting.org. The reason for doing something this extensive is that the place in which your hay is grown will determine its sugar content.

Weather plays a big part in how much sugar remains in the hay after harvest and also how early it's harvested. An average amount of sugar in grass hay, according to Dairy One's database, is 11%. Safegrass.org is a website given to me as a resource by my farrier, Annette Popovich.

One article you can read on safegrass.org written by veterinarian Dr. Don Walsh, DVM, suggests soaking your hay to safely remove the sugars as an integral part of a treatment program for horses with Laminitis. Alfalfa and Timothy hay are normally supposed to have the lowest NSC values at 20% and 15% respectively.

Many factors can cause or contribute to insulin resistance, including genetic predisposition, a diet that is high in sugar, not enough exercise, dietary/mineral imbalances, and obesity. Some breeds of horses such as Arabians, Peruvian Pasos, Paso Finos, and Morgans can tend towards insulin resistance as an adaptation to meager vegetation.

Horses have evolved over the years to be active and moving most of their day and have not evolved to eat the levels of grain that are fed today.

Magnesium is a mineral that affects both insulin secretion and action and is therefore important in glucose metabolic equilibrium. Low magnesium levels result in impaired insulin function and unfortunately it is often overlooked in commercial feeds and can be found to be low in your hay.

Calcium is a competitor for magnesium but other minerals are not affected by it, making it safe to supplement in your horse's diet. It will not cause an imbalance with other minerals. There can be an effective magnesium deficiency if calcium is too high relative to magnesium.

Magnesium can also calm a jumpy or nervous horse, so don't be afraid to add it to your horse's feed.

There are many opinions, but the proof will be in the results you get from making healthier choices for your horse.



Ryan Hambro proudly displays his commendation for being part of the Reflections contest at HELUS. Whitemyer photo.

History of Green Valley

Reprinted with permission, *Discover Green Valley*, compiled by Jack and Louise Ameluxen

The Andrade adobe was built where San Francisquito ends at Lake Elizabeth Road, and was called Andrade (or Andrata) corners. The spelling is different from his signature on the census.

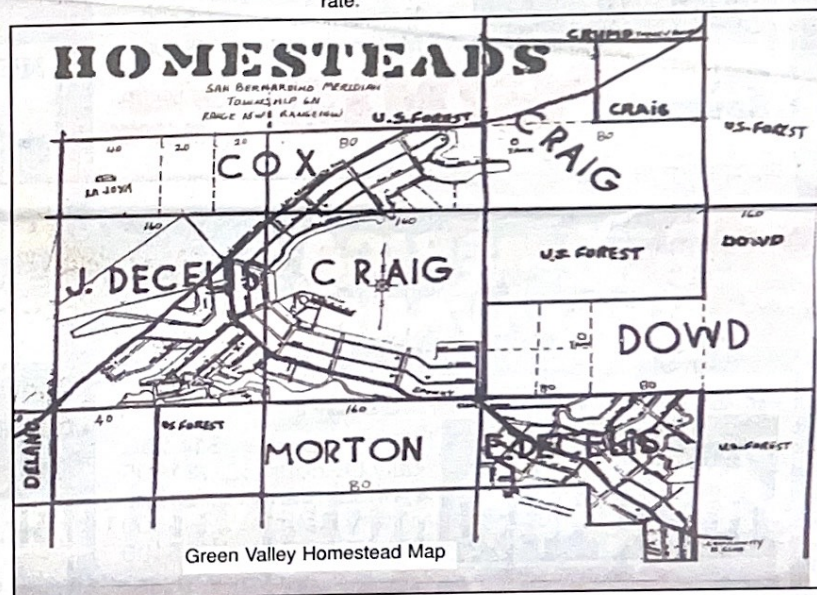
His granddaughter, Lucie, married Felipe Talamantes and they lived in the adobe until 1948.

Dr. Rand purchased the property and added five rooms to the adobe before he sold it. The adobe is still occupied today.

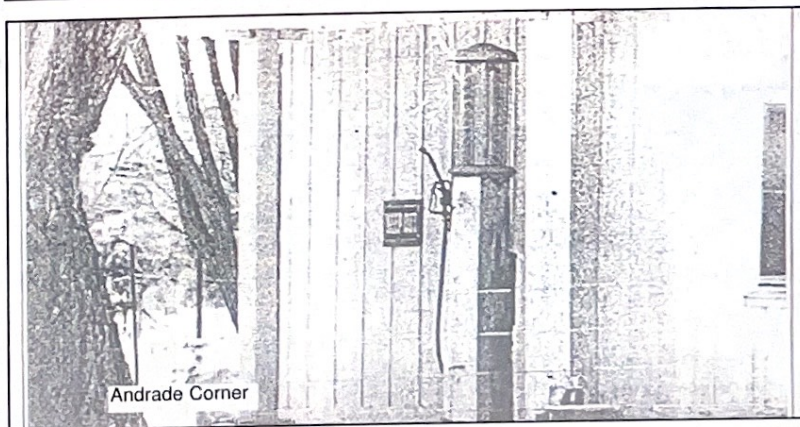
The maps from the National Archives are very interesting. They show Dowd Canyon was called Helena Valley, South Portal was Bear Canyon, San Francisquito was called San Francisco Creek and Canyon. The road was Los Angeles and Tejon Road.

The names and numbers of many homesteads are written in (on the homestead map), showing their location, including T. Delano, Mrs. Cox, Vacant Cabin, Martin, and William Dowd - Orchard, where many people have told of picking apples in the 1940s.

Forestry surveys have told us that many of the early lines were accepted and are not completely accurate.



Green Valley Homestead Map



Andrade Corner



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Rally Discount \$1805
Hyundai Finance .. \$1000
Military Rebate \$500
College Grad Rebate \$400

Net Cost... \$7590 5 At This Net Cost

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NEW 2011 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS



Sale Price \$21,604
Rally Discount \$2425
Loyalty Cash \$500
Military Rebate \$500
College Grad Rebate .. \$400

Net Cost... \$17,779 1 At This Net Cost

Factory rebate in lieu of special financing. Must be on active duty status in the U.S. Military or the spouse of someone who is. Must finance through Hyundai Motor financing. To qualify for college rebate you must be a graduate of a four-year university, accredited two-year college, or a nursing school within the past two years or graduate within the next six months. (H102510/194977)

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